

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A method and apparatus for determining a bit error rate. The method comprises the steps of acquiring a data signal by an acquisition unit of a test instrument for a predetermined period of time, and storing the data signal in a memory of the test instrument. A clock signal is recovered from the stored data signal, and in accordance therewith, the stored data signal is sliced into a plurality of data segments of a predetermined length. Each of said data segments is synchronized to a frame or predetermined pattern to determine a bit error rate thereof.